tion

by Dec. 05.

(c) to (e) The outlay for projects in particular State is done based on a transparent formula having weightage of 15% each for area and population of the State and 70% for throwforward of projects in the State. Project-wise allocation is based on progress of the project, operational requirement and overall availability of resources.

A number of initiatives have also been taken to augment resources for expediting completion of the ongoing projects. These include sharing by State Governments, Public/Private Partnership, funding from Ministry of Defence, additional resources for National Projects and non-budgetary initiatives for National Rail Vikas Yojana, Remote Area Rail Sampark Yojana has also been announced in 2004-05 which envisages investment of about Rs. 20,000 crore in next five years. However, the funds for the Yojana are yet to be tied up. With these efforts, it may be feasible to expedite the progress of ongoing projects. In view of severe resource constraints and heavy throwforward of ongoing projects, it is not feasible to fix time schedule for all the projects.

(f) Does not arise.

Rail infrastructure In Orissa

*60. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that industrialization of Orissa would necessitate development of rail infrastructure particularly from Jaipur, Paradeep, Gopalpur, Jharsuguda, Raigada, etc.;

(b) whether this will also necessitate immediate rail linkage from Kalahandi to Gopalpur to meet the needs of industrialization of the backward areas with a view to improving the economy of this region; and

(c) if so, the action plan of Government to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) A number of new line, gauge conversion and doubling works have been taken up to meet the demand of traffic. These include Daitari-Banspani, Haridaspur-Paradeep, Angul-Sukinda, Talcher-Bimlagarh, Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh new lines, Jharsuguda-Sambalpur, Cuttack-Barang, Khurda Road-Barang,

Rajatgarh-Barang, Titlagarh-Lanjigarh, Rahama-Paradeep doublings, Napada-Gunupur gauge conversion.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Onion shortage

285. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country had been experiencing shortage of onions for the last ten months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the production of onions had suffered; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There was, however, 10 per cent short supply of onion in the market during the month of October, 2005. Shortage of onion was due to unseasonal rains in States of Maharashtra and Gujarat adversely which affected the storage of previous rabi crop and also reduced the production in kharif 2005 by about 1.00 lakh ton.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Production of kharif onion in the State of Gujarat and Maharashtra had suffered due to unseasonal rains in October, 2005 which reduced the production by about 1.00 lakh ton.

Flood/Drought assistance to States

†286. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States hit by floods or flood like situation or were affected by drought during this year;

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.